

RO

3400 Forest Pest Management

June 22, 1982

Pathology Input - Vegetative Management Session

Forest Supervisor, Mt. Hood NF

On May 17-19, Gregory M. Filip, Plant Pathologist from the Forest Pest Management Staff, Regional Office, visited the Hood River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Purpose of the visit was to participate in a vegetative management session for the Nottingham Campground. Others who actively participated in the session were Jim Olsen, Developed Sites Specialist from the RO; Jim Pollack, Head of Landscape Management from the RO; Dick Shaeffer, Landscape Architect from the SO; Ken Davis, Recreation Specialist from the District; Dick Bouck, Timber Staff from the District; and Steve Otoupalik, Recreation Specialist from the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest.

Nottingham Campground, located on the East Fork of the Hood River, is partially developed with roads and spurs but no permanent structures. About 20 percent of the original old-growth stand occupying the site remains, the rest having been salvaged after repeated years of blowdown. The stand is uneven-aged and composed of several tree species including Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, grand fir, Pacific silver fir, western larch, western white pine, lodgepole pine, western hemlock, and black cottonwood.

Principal pest problems in the stand include heart rot caused by the Indian paint fungus (*Echinodontium tinctorium*) in hemlock, blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) in white pine, dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium laricis*) in larch, and balsam woolly aphid (*Adelges piceae*) in silver fir. Several Douglas-fir had dead tops, possibly caused by bark beetles (*Scolytus unispinosus*) as a response to poor site. The major problem of the Campground is its exposed location to down-valley winds and very thin alluvial soils, resulting in severe windthrow, especially of spruce and hemlock, the shallow-rooted species. Almost the entire center portion of the Campground has blown over, resulting in numerous root wads after stems had been salvage logged. Some trees with heart rot broke off rather than uprooted, often revealing advanced decay.

One of the prescriptions developed at the session was to remove all mature trees in two units (Heathy South and Rootwad) and spike-top Douglas-fir in a third unit (Cottonwood) before the site is developed further. Dominant trees in these units all have a high potential for windthrow or breakage and should be removed now to reduce hazard and facilitate cleanup. Other units in the Campground have only smaller trees or are not exposed to the wind and, therefore, need not be treated at this time.

Several species including spruce, hemlock, cottonwood, and the true firs have thin bark and are prone especially to wounding and subsequent decay. Because of the anticipated wounding and abuse caused by further campground development and increased recreation use, these species should be discriminated against

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whenever possible during tree removal operations. We recommend that the Campground be inspected for hazard trees immediately after development and yearly thereafter. Forest Pest Management pathologists are available to assist in identifying hazardous trees if the District so requests.

If FPM can be of further assistance, please contact us.

ROGER E. SANDOZST

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